

What is claimed is:

1. A printing materials production supporting apparatus comprising:

a definition reception section receiving a definition of a job representing one work consisting of a series of steps for producing one printing material, a definition of a work flow representing procedures for executing the job, and input of information on a client executing the job together with a predetermined customer, from a terminal of the predetermined customer among a plurality of terminals connected through a communication line;

a customer/client management section managing information on said customer and the information on said client;

a progress management section managing a progress status of the job received by said definition reception section for each job; and

a file management section managing a substantial file storing data available as the printing material or data available as a part of the printing material relating to the job received by said definition reception section for each job.

2. The printing materials production supporting apparatus according to claim 1, comprising:

an upload count section counting the number of times of upload of the substantial file by said customer and said client.

3. The printing materials production supporting apparatus according to claim 1, comprising:

a preflight rule download section downloading rules

necessary to execute a preflight processing for verifying whether the data stored in the substantial file is appropriate data for printing, to said customer and said client.

4. The printing materials production supporting apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

said definition reception section receives designation of privileges of the client by said customer, and said customer/client management section manages the information on the customer and the information on the client including information on the privileges of the customer; and

the printing materials production supporting apparatus approves access from the client in a range of the privileges authorized to the client.

5. The printing materials production supporting apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

said definition reception section receives designation of an operator operating the terminal and designation of privileges of the operator, and said customer/client management section manages information on the operator including information on the privileges of the operator as well as the information on the customer and the information on the client; and

the printing materials production supporting apparatus approves access from the operator in a range of the privileges authorized to the operator.

6. The printing materials production supporting apparatus according to claim 1, comprising:

an asset management section managing the substantial file storing data available as the printing material or data available as a part of the printing material for each customer; and

a first transfer section transferring the substantial file managed by said file management section to said asset management section in accordance with an instruction.

7. The printing materials production supporting apparatus according to claim 1, comprising:

an asset management section managing the substantial file storing the data available as the printing material or data available as a part of the printing material for each customer; and

a second transfer section transferring the substantial file managed by the asset management section to said file management section in accordance with an instruction with the job being designated.

8. A printing materials production supporting system comprising:

a definition reception section receiving a definition of a job representing one work consisting of a series of steps for producing one printing material, a definition of a work flow representing procedures for executing the job, and input of information on a client executing the job together with a predetermined customer, from a terminal of the predetermined customer among a plurality of terminals connected through a communication line;

a customer/client management section managing

information on said customer and the information on said client;

a progress management section managing a progress status of the job received by said definition reception section for each job; and

a file management section managing a substantial file storing data available as the printing material or data available as a part of the printing material relating to the job received by said definition reception section for each job.

9. A printing materials production supporting program executed in a computer and thereby allowing the computer to operate as a printing materials production supporting apparatus for supporting production of printing materials, the program comprising:

a definition reception section receiving a definition of a job representing one work consisting of a series of steps for producing one printing material, a definition of a work flow representing procedures for executing the job, and input of information on a client executing the job together with a predetermined customer, from a terminal of the predetermined customer among a plurality of terminals connected through a communication line;

a customer/client management section managing information on said customer and the information on said client;

a progress management section managing a progress status of the job received by said definition reception section for each job; and

a file management section managing a substantial file

storing data available as the printing material or data available as a part of the printing material relating to the job received by said definition reception section for each job.

10. A printing materials production supporting program executed in a computer and thereby allowing the computer to operate as a printing materials production supporting system for supporting production of printing materials, the program comprising:

a definition reception section receiving a definition of a job representing one work consisting of a series of steps for producing one printing material, a definition of a work flow representing procedures for executing the job, and input of information on a client executing the job together with a predetermined customer, from a terminal of the predetermined customer among a plurality of terminals connected through a communication line;

a customer/client management section managing information on said customer and the information on said client;

a progress management section managing a progress status of the job received by said definition reception section for each job; and

a file management section managing a substantial file storing data available as the printing material or data available as a part of the printing material relating to the job received by said definition reception section for each job.